



Understanding Biblical Narrative - The First Six Days

By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein



There is a well known Midrash that states that each of the six days of Creation "has a Zug" or to translate that into colloquial English, these six days can be paired. Generally, this is understood to mean that Sunday and Monday are a pair, Tuesday and Wednesday are a pair, and so on.

However, the Gaon of Vilna noticed a pattern in the text of the first chapter in B'reishit. On Day one light is created, and on Day four the heavenly lights - sun, moon, and stars are created. On day two the sea and the sky are created, and on Day five the fish and the fowl are created. On day three the dry land with its vegetation are created, and on Day six the land animals and man are created.

The following pattern then emerges:

Pair One	Pair Two	Pair Three
Day 1 - Light	Day 2 - Sky & Sea	Day 3 - Dry Land & Vegetation
Day 4 - Sun, Moon & Stars	Day 5 - Fish & Fowl	Day 6 - Animals & Man

In each of the pairs, a pattern of progressive differentiation emerges. The heavenly lights constitute a differentiation emerging in the simple light of Day one's creation. Fish and fowl constitute differentiations within the sea and sky. Animals and man constitute differentiations occurring in the earth's land mass.

There is a common theme in the Rabbinic culture of Lithuanian Orthodoxy that insists that everything in the Torah is there to teach us Halacha - a sentiment expressed in Rav Soloveitchick's "Ish HaHalacha" or "Halachic Man." Understood in an extended sense, this means that values, attitudes, and beliefs that are realized in the norms of Halachic legislation are taught to us in a different way in the Torah's apparently non-legal narratives. If the Gaon's interpretation of the above Midrash is correct, we can begin to understand the first chapter of the Torah. The saga of the six day Creation narrative serves in part to teach us to understand Creation as a process of progressive differentiation. As creatures created in God's image, we continue and complete God's Creation by imposing the differentiations of Halachic life upon the moral and spiritual realms of human existence. What is the Halacha after all, if not a system for ordering, classifying, and differentiating the elements of our experience?

This gives a profounder meaning to the injunction prohibiting the consumption of wine by Cohanim performing the sacrificial rites. Wine compromises the lucidity that allows us to make distinctions essential to Halachic differentiation. Thus, the Torah says :

"יין ושכר אל תשת ... בבואם אל אהל מועד ... ולהבדיל בין הקדש ובין החל ובין הטמא ובין המהר"

"You shall not drink wine and strong drink ... when you enter the sanctuary... That you make distinctions between the secular and the sacred, between the impure and the pure." - VaYikra 9, 10.



CESHVAN

This year, 5769 is "K'sidran" - which is to say that the months of the year follow the accustomed pattern of a 30 day month followed by a 29 day month. In fact, the months of Cheshvan and Kislev vary in length on different years. Sometimes Cheshvan and Kislev are both 30 days in length - such a year is called "Sh'lema." On other years, both Cheshvan and Kislev are 29 days - such a year is "Haser" - literally, deficient. This year, since Tishrei is always 30 days and the general month sequence applies out two variable months, Cheshvan is going to be 29 days and Kislev will be 30 days

MAZEL TOV

To Judy Kirchick and family on the birth of a grandson, Calvin Dov (Calev Berel) Rose, born to Lisa & Chaim Rose of New York. the baby was born on Sept. 4th, and is named after his grandfather, Cal Kirchick.

To Daniella Mandelbaum on her Bat Mitzvah and to parents Yosef & Sher Mandelbaum, and grandparents Rabbi Abraham & Leona Mandelbaum and Dr. Shmulie & Daryle Spero.

To Rabbi & Malka Granatstein on the birth of a granddaughter born to Hedva & Jonathan Fox of Israel.

To Howard & Evie Davis on the birth of a granddaughter born to Ari & Amy Davis of New York.

Thank You! - תודה רבה

We had a wonderful High Holy Day Season this year and would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Teffilot so successful and meaningful. We had three full Minyanim, including the Main Sanctuary, Perl Hall, and a Sephardic/Israeli Minyan in Anna Simon Hall.

The help continued in the building of our Succah, as well as the wonderful Simchat Torah lunch that we hosted for over 330 people.

We thank you again, and pray for a very healthy and happy new year for everyone at Green Road Synagogue, the overall Jewish Community and Kol Am Yisrael.

The Rabbi, President, Board of Trustees, and Staff of Green Road Synagogue

MONTHLY CALENDAR - CESHVAN

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Wednesday, October 29 - Thursday, October 30

Morning Services 6:30 a.m.

Friday, October 31

Candle Lighting..... 6:05 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:10 p.m.

Saturday, November 1 - **Parshat Noach**

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class CANCELED

Mincha..... 5:55 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 7:03 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 5:05 p.m.

Daylight Savings time Ends—Moves Clocks Back 1 Hour

Friday, November 7

Candle Lighting..... 4:53 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 8 - **Parshat Lech L'cha**

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 3:50 p.m.

Mincha..... 4:50 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 5:51 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 9

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

** Rabbi Granatstein's Monthly Chumash Class

At his home 8:00 p.m.

Friday, November 14

Candle Lighting..... 4:50 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:55 p.m.

Saturday, November 15 - **Parshat VaYera**

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 3:40 p.m.

Mincha..... 4:40 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 5:48 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 4:55 p.m.

Sunday, November 16

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Friday, November 21

Candle Lighting..... 4:46 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:50 p.m.

Saturday, November 22 - **Parshat Chayei Sarah**

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 3:35 p.m.

Mincha..... 4:35 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat..... 5:44 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 4:50 p.m.

Sunday, November 23

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Thursday, November 27 - **Thanksgiving Day**

Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Friday, November 28 - **Rosh Chodesh Kislev**

Morning Services 6:30 a.m.



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We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Synagogue.

IN MEMORY OF:

Cal Kirchick: Perry, Charlotte, & Lauren Schneider
Hasida Toltzis' mother, Esther Isaacson: Gizelle & Henry Lovinger & Family

IN HONOR OF:

A Speedy Recovery to Joe Hecht: David Cunix & Sally Mandel
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Judy Kirchik's New Grandson: Sidi Albert; Cynthia & Al Uvlin
Rabbi & Malka Granatstein's new Granddaughter: Jill Crolick & David Gleicher
Evie & Howie Davis' first Grandchild: Jill Crolick & David Gleicher
Daniella Mandelbaum's Bat Mitzvah: 411 Unlimited

SIFFARIM:

In Memory of Cal Kirchick: Chaya & Robert Schottenstein (Siddur); Thelma Siver & David Nittskoff (Chumash)

KIDDUSH:

October 4: By Yosef & Sher Mandelbaum in honor of their daughter Daniella's Bat Mitzvah.
October 25: By Phil & Peggy Webberman in memory of Phil's father, Yehuda Zvi Webberman, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT:

October 4: By Igor & Tatyana Spira in memory of Igor's grandmother, Rivka Spira, on the occasion of her Yahrzeit.
October 11: Jointly by Allen & Carol Seftel in memory of Carol's mother, Roslyn Sirota, and by Rabbi & Malka Grantstein in memory of Malka's father, Max Balinsky, on the occasion of their Yahrzeits.